THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Government is aware of the crisis faced by Cotton growers in Andhra Pradesh which was mainly due to the incidence of pests in certain pockets. The prices of cotton were 40 to 100% higher than minimum support prices and hence Cotton Corporation of India had no .occasion for undertaking price support operations.

(b) Necessary steps to import pesticides reported.to be e.ffective against pests have been taken. The Cotton Corporation of India has also been directed to.keep, constant watch on cotton prices and take, necessary steps to enter the market if situation warrants.

Inclusion of Andhra Pradesh under Special Rice Production Programme

1857. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration to include Andhra Pradesh under special Rice Production Programme (SRPP); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if no.t, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) (a) and (b) For increasing the production and productivity of rice in Andhra Pradesh a Special Foodgrains Production Programme Rice, is already under implementation in the State from 1988-89. The districts covered under the scheme includes. East Godavari, West Godavari, Chittoor, Nalgonda, Khammam, karimnagar, Nellore and Warrangal.

Digging of tubewells

1858. PRQE, C LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tube wells dug during the years 1987-88 and 1988-89 in different parts of the country, year-wise and State-wise; and

(b) what percentage of targets of tube wells have been completed during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF- AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Assistance to Small and Marginal Farmers for Increasing Agricultural Production has a component of Minor Irrigation works which *inter-alia* includes .dugwells, wells, shallow tubewells, filter point*, village ponds,, percolation ponds, surface storage structures etc. Therefore no specific targets are fixed for the construction *of* tubewells under the scheme. However, for Special Foodgrains Production Programme about 6 lakh shallow tubewells/ dugwells were proposed during 1988-89. A Statement indicating number of shallow tubwells/dugwells constructed in the selected States is given in Statement.